

Mr. Speaker, this generation of Americans had a rendezvous with destiny. Fifty years ago last month, General MacArthur stood upon the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, in Tokyo Bay, to receive the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan. In MacArthur's closing remarks, he spoke directly to the mothers, the fathers, the wives, and the sweethearts of those men and women back home.

And so my fellow countrymen, today I report to you that your sons and daughters have served you well and faithfully . . . their spiritual strength and power has brought us through to victory. They are homeward bound—take care of them.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my fellow Americans, to take care of them as well. I speak to the spouses, the children, the grandchildren, and the friends of those brave patriots who served this country in war. Please continue to care for them. They deserve it, and they have earned it.

In the 50 years since they have returned home, they have faithfully served this country with dignity, and with strengthened character. They have all helped to create the single greatest country on the face of the earth, and have altered, for the better, the future of mankind, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, for those who are no longer with us, there are no words to adequately describe the supreme sacrifice each has made in the service of their country.

But words in the context of why we honor their memory, pale in comparison to the ultimate deed that these brave Americans have done for us now living in a free world. We must all sustain the memories of their heroism and their service with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt affection.

Our humble words can never repay the debt that we owe these great men and women, yet, we can strive to keep their faith and to uphold their vision which led them into battle and to their final sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we are, after all, the caretakers of their memory.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a dedication ceremony incident to the placement of a bust of Raoul Wallenberg in the Capitol.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that we will have fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

MEDICARE REFORM A SMALL BUSINESS PRIORITY

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to mention one of the other reasons we must reform Medicare—our Nation's small businesses.

It is conservatively estimated that employer costs will rise by more than 125 percent in only seven years, if we fail to fix Medicare. Mr. Speaker, what small business can survive overhead like that?

Our Nation has more than 20 million small businesses, and it is these organizations which have made us the super power we are.

They are the engines of innovation and growth in our economy, providing virtually all the new jobs in our country over the past 10 years.

My State is the 2d most taxed State in the Nation, and my district is the 12th most taxed district in the country. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how can I justify this increased burden on my small businesses?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that when the fearmongers start throwing their fictitious claims they remember the 37 million beneficiaries and our 20 million small businesses, rather than just their petty political goals.

SYMPTOMS IN THE HEADLINES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker: Prosecutor executed in Boston; World Trade Center bombed; Federal building blown up in Oklahoma; Amtrak train sabotaged in Arizona; A mailbox Unabomber that is killing people through mailboxes: 25,000 murders a year; in some cities high school dropout rates over 50 percent.

I believe these are symptoms, Mr. Speaker, and Congress is addressing them as problems. Maybe the problems will be found in the Federal laws that reward dependency, penalize achievement, subsidize illegitimacy, kill families, kill investments, kill jobs.

I say to my colleagues: without jobs we will continue to have the symptoms that are the headlines of the U.S. papers.

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN PRESERVES AND PROTECTS MEDICARE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I spoke with my parents, and they are very concerned about the bickering that is going on over Medicare. This morning, in honor of the World War II veterans, we heard Senator INOUE ask that we work together to attack our common problems here in America. Well, Mr. Speaker, here are the facts on Medicare:

The President's board of trustees has told us that by 2002 Medicare will be bankrupt. The Republicans have a plan to preserve and protect that program. The plan includes the fact that no senior will be required to give up their

Medicare benefits, that the payments will go from \$4,800 per year per beneficiary this year up to \$6,700 per year per beneficiary. They will also offer options to seniors for other types of Medicare plans.

Mr. Speaker, some Members of Congress would try to scare our seniors into supporting opposition to this plan. It is a good plan. I request the seniors in America to call their Congressman and support the Republican plan to preserve and protect Medicare.

TRUTH IN THE DETAILS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for all my colleagues who tried to scare the American public into believing that the devil was in the Republican Medicare plan, they forgot one thing, the truth is in the details, and in the marketplace of ideas, the truth will prevail.

The 1960's Medicare System is going broke. The Democrats know it, the Republicans know it, and the American public knows it. The truth in the details about the Medicare Preservation Act, is this:

There are no cuts in Medicare spending, we increase per beneficiary spending by \$1,900. There is no increase in Medicare copayments. There is no increase in Medicare deductibles. And there is no change in the current rate of Medicare premiums. Most importantly, the \$270 billion saved by Medicare under this proposition will be kept in Medicare to ensure its solvency for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is in the details.

LET US TALK ABOUT DETAILS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important to talk about the details. Let us talk about what is going on with Medicaid. Some of those details we know. There was no hearing, but, nevertheless, the Committee on Commerce has marked up the bill.

And let us talk about some of the, I think, very non-family-friendly things that they did:

If a couple suddenly finds one of them very, very ill and needing nursing home care, they did away with the 1988 statute that we passed, and now the entire couple's resources must be expended before they can go on Medicaid. Mr. Speaker, in 1988 we said that was not fair, the resources should be divided between the two, and they only had to deplete half because the remaining family members should not have to be poor. It also allows us to reach out and go back to the adult children and